

26 Shanley Avenue

March 25, 1958

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Subject: Clinton Hill Council to Play Active but Neutral
Role in City Election Campaign.

The Clinton Hill Neighborhood Council will play an active role but remain politically neutral in the city elections, it was announced today. A policy statement adopted by the council's executive board at a meeting Tuesday night at 20 Farley Avenue declared that, "as an organization, we will neither endorse nor oppose any candidate in the elections."

The council, a non-profit voluntary organization was founded in 1955 to build morale and improve conditions in Clinton Hill.

The statement, drafted by council president Stanley Winters and other officers, pledged the group to "question candidates on their solutions to problems we raise... and to keep council meetings free from discussions aimed at swaying our votes one way or another."

The council also agreed "to respect the democratic right of any council member to work for the candidate or party of his choice - so long as council means are not used for this purpose." Letters will be mailed to

candidates asking them "to respect the council's position."

The board empowered the council's public affairs committee to distribute 10,000 copies of a "quiz card" listing six issues which it urged residents to ask candidates when their votes were solicited. The issues include urban renewal, education, zoning and code enforcement, housing, parks and recreation, and traffic.

The committee will also circulate 800 questionnaires to ascertain from residents their attitudes toward conditions in these six areas now prevailing in Clinton Hill.

In a second action, the board approved a resolution in the memory of the late Rev. Curtis B. Geyer, pastor of Trinity Methodist Church, and one of the council's founders. The statement cited Rev. Geyer as personifying "in thought and in deed the growing spirit of mutual understanding and cooperation among all residents in Clinton Hill."

The statement hailed Rev. Geyer as "one of the first to envision a bright future for the large tract at 534 Clinton Avenue," seeing "the essential value of this tract as a great source of moral strength and encouragement." The city recently acquired the site for off-street parking and recreational use as part of an urban renewal program in the area.

ASK THAT PARK BE NAMED AFTER PASTOR

The board authorized that city officials be informed of its belief that "no more fitting tribute could be paid this man and the cause he espoused than that of naming the park and recreational area at 534 Clinton Avenue in his memory, and we urge that this should be done." Supporting letters from neighborhood leaders will be attached.

Source: Stanley B. Winters
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